

## Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 241608Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0345

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

USUN NEW YORK 269

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 0348

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PDIP, PGOV, PINT

SUBJECT: ANGUILLA--THE MAKING OF A CONSTITUTIONAL ANOMALY

REF BRIDGETOWN 0297

1. PREMIER ROBERT BRADSHAW OF THE ASSOCIATED STATE OF ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA IS ANGERED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM'S HAVING PROVIDED ANGUILLA WITH A CONSTITUTION OF ITS OWN, ACCORDING TO A CANA NEWS AGENCY REPORT FROM BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS, APPEARING IN THE BARBADOS DAILY ADVOCATE-NEWS ON FEBRUARY 23.

2. THE ITEM QUOTES A BRADSHAW SPOKESMAN AS SAYING THAT THE PREMIER "CONDEMNS" THE CONSTITUTION WHICH "FREES" ANGUILLA FROM ST. KITTS RULE AND "THAT BRITAIN HAD RAPED THE CONSTITUTION OF THE THREE ISLAND STATE...BY RETURNING ANGUILLA TO BRITISH RULE." THIS, ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN, WAS THE BURDEN OF A LETTER BRADSHAW RECENTLY SENT TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE ERIC LETOCQ (RESIDENT IN ST. LUCIA), WHO HAD EARLIER PROVIDED BRADSHAW WITH A COPY OF THE NEW

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CONSTITUTION FOR ANGUILLA.

3. ANGUILLA'S COUNCIL WAS DISSOLVED FEBRUARY 10 AND ELECTIONS UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION ARE TO BE HELD MARCH 15, THE ADVOCATE-NEWS ITEM CORRECTLY REPORTS.

4. COMMENT: BRADSHAW IS CORRECT IN HIS CHARGE. THE BRITISH, BY PROVIDING ANGUILLA--WHICH HAS FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE ASSOCIATED STATEHOOD SOUGHT TO REMOVE ITSELF FROM THIS UNWANTED UNION WITH ST. KITTS--WITH A CONSTITUTION OF ITS OWN, HAVE EFFECTED THE DE FACTO SECESSION OF THE ISLAND FROM THE STATE OF ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA. THE BRITISH STILL HOLD THAT THAT STATE HAD DE JURE EXISTENCE, THOUGH, AND THE ANGUILLA CONSTITUTION IS DRAFTED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO NOT DENY THIS.

5. BRADSHAW IS NOT ONLY ANGRY BUT ON APPARENTLY FIRM CONSTITUTIONAL GROUND. (THE WEST INDIES ACT, 1967, DOES NOT GIVE HMG THE POWER TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE ASSOCIATED STATES.) THE BRITISH HAVE BEEN FORCED BY CIRCUMSTANCES TO MAKE ANGUILLA A CONSTITUTIONAL ANOMALY, NOW STILL A PART OF THE ASSOCIATED STATE YET IN FACT UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION AN OUTRIGHT COLONY. BRADSHAW WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE ANY EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO EXERT RULE OVER ANGUILLA SINCE THERE IS NOT SUFFICIENT ENTHUSIASM AMONG THE POPULACE OF ST. KITTS OVER THE ISSUE, ACCORDING TO THE ACTING BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO BARBADOS. (WE AGREE.) AND ON NEVIS THE DESIRE FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM ST. KITTS IS STRONG AS WELL.

6. BRADSHAW CONTINUES TO BE INTENT ON INDEPENDENCE, WHICH HE HAS STATED SHOULD COME ABOUT THIS YEAR. IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE HIS BEING ABLE TO BRING ANGUILLA ALONG IN HIS MOVE TO INDEPENDENCE (AND INDEED HE MAY HAVE TROUBLE WITH NEVIS). SINCE INDEPENDENCE RATHER THAN THE ASSERTION OF RULE OVER ANGUILLA IS PROBABLY THE MORE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE TO BRADSHAW, ULTIMATELY HE WILL PROBABLY AGREE TO SOME FACE-SAVING FORMULA PERMITTING HIM TO DISPENSE WITH THE LATTER. THE REVIVAL OF THE ANGUILLA MATTER WITH THE NEW CONSTITUTION MAY SLOW INDEPENDENCE DOWN SOMEWHAT, HOWEVER. BEFORE IT REEMERGED, INDEPENDENCE BEFORE THE YEAR WAS OUT WAS A REAL POSSIBILITY. NOW IT SEEMS THAT IT WILL NOT BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ATTAINED UNTIL LATER.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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